

REMARKS

Claims 5-7 and 9-12 have been canceled so that only allowed claims remain pending in the application.

Since the above amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejections

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 5, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,136,214) in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,590,179). On page 4 of the Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. in view of Tanaka et al. as applied to claims 5, 6 and 9 above, and further in view of Ohmi (U.S. Pat. 5,272,417) or Celestino et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,579,618) or Gorin (U.S. Pat. 4,464,223). On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,136,214) in view of Ohmi (U.S. Pat. 5,272,417) or Celestino et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,579,618) or Gorin (U.S. Pat. 4,464,223) and Tanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,590,179). On page 8 of the Office Action, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,136,214).

In response, and to expedite allowance, Applicants have canceled all of the rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the obviousness rejections have been overcome, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1, 2, 3 and 8 are allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 2, 3 and 8 are allowed. In view of the cancellation of the other pending claims, Applicants submit that only allowed claims remain pending in the application, and thus allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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